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Middlebury College
Alumni College XIX

August 31–September 4, 1994

Building Bridges

advisory boards of *Aethon*, *The Eastern Economic Journal*, and *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

5. WILDERNESS AND CIVILIZATION: BRIDGING THE GAP — Alison Byerly, Assistant Professor of English

How distinctions have been more influential in shaping modern life than the supposed conflict between nature and the humanity that seeks to master it. At the same time, our literary culture has been immensely enriched by various writers' responses to the natural world. In this course, we will read poems and essays that deal with the relationship between nature and humankind in order to explore the role of such writings in bridging the gap that seems to divide us from the wilderness that we simultaneously cherish and exploit. We will also take an optional short hike in the Bread Loaf area.

Alison Byerly, assistant professor of English, also teaches in the environmental studies and women's studies programs. She holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Pennsylvania, and has written about the influence of nature on the aesthetic ideas of English and American writers. She is currently completing a book about representations of art in 19th-century British literature.

6. DESTROYING WALLS AND BUILDING BRIDGES IN A CHANGING EUROPE — A Miscellany

During the last three years, Europe has been the site of sweeping political, economic and cultural changes. From the tearing down of the Berlin Wall to the breakup of the Soviet Union, European nations have struggled to redefine their relationships with their neighbors and their conceptions of themselves.

International politics and economics figure among the national strengths of the Middlebury curriculum. This "miscellany" course will build on that strength by featuring a series of lectures from a variety of faculty members on recent changes in Europe. Among the instructors will be Professor of Geography and Chair of the Faculty Ron Liebowitz, who will interpret events in Russia. His colleague in the geography department, Assistant Professor Gunttram Herb, will discuss the rise of right-wing nationalism in Germany and the continuing crisis in Bosnia. In addition to the focus on political and economic changes, Professor of Art John Houssak will examine the current state of the visual arts in Europe. Other topics addressed by faculty will be announced.



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Please reserve space for self ☐ spouse/guest ☐

Name _____ Class _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

	Take Trip					
My topic is:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Second Choice:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Spouse/Guest topic:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Spouse/Guest 2nd Choice:	1	2	3	4	5	6

RESERVATION DEADLINE:
AUGUST 12, 1994

For more information, please call the Alumni Office at (802) 388-3711, ext. 500. Send your completed form to: Alumni Office, Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753.

FEES

Regular Alumni College Conference: All inclusive fee (covering 12 meals, four nights lodging at Bread Loaf Inn, tuition and books) is \$383/person. Fee cost for recent alumni (classes #4-94) is \$115/person.

Bicycle Trip: All inclusive rate (17 meals, four nights lodging at Bread Loaf, Shushan Inn, Strong House or Emerson House, tuition and transfers) is \$495/person for all alumni.

Please indicate if you have any special housing needs.

Method of Payment:

☐ Check-Enclosed (payable to Middlebury College)

☐ Credit Card

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Exp. Date _____

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(please print)

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1. THE BRIDGES OF ADDISON COUNTY — Glenn Andres, Professor of Art, with photographer Erik Borg '67

This course is designed as a multi-disciplinary exploration of the bridge from a very special vantage point—the seat of—a bicycle crossing the beautiful countryside of Addison County. Three days of biking between Middlebury, Shoreham and Vergennes (arranged by Mike Vermont) will provide the raw materials, a rich catalog of water crossings, folding spot, covered bridge, trestle, through truss, stone and concrete arch, cantilever and steel deck, bowstring truss, and even a newly proposed cable stay bridge for Otter Creek. Morning briefings, on-site commentaries, and afternoon lectures and workshops will provide information for their interpretation. Historical background, technological explanation, structural aspects, critical analysis, and photographic properties. This is an opportunity to indulge (or develop) a fascination for the history of technology, to practice photography, play with light from a professional critic, or just to enjoy riding to picturesque places and staying in country inns.

For those who are interested in improving the quality of their photos, Erik Borg '67 will be on hand to offer pointers and suggestions for improvement. Photos will be processed daily, for review and criticism in the evenings. The weekend will end with an exhibit at Bread Loaf of the group's photography (participation optional).

Course director Glenn Andres, Professor of Art, specializes in the history of architecture and urbanism. He preaches and lectures on Middlebury and Vermont themes, is a member of the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Middlebury Town and Bridge Committee, and has taught courses on American design, local history, and architectural form and structure. Photographer Erik Borg '67 has published in *National Geographic*. His work can also be found in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Vermont Life* and *Esquire* Magazine, and in many Middlebury publications.

More about the Bicycle Trip

The trip is organized and led by Mike Vermont, one of the oldest bicycle touring companions in the country and the only one to operate exclusively in Vermont and the Connecticut River Valley. Two Mike Vermont tour leaders and a Mike Vermont van will accompany the group and take care of all logistical details.

The group will stay at Bread Loaf on Wednesday and Saturday at the Shoreham Inn on Thursday, and at the Strong House and Emerson House in Vergennes on Friday (the last two are close to each other).

Bicycling will begin in East Middlebury (participants are not expected to pedal up or down the mountain from Bread Loaf). The group will return to Bread Loaf on Saturday afternoon and will participate in the rest of the Alumni College programs there.

Bicycles can be rented from Mike Vermont. The trip is limited to 20 people and is open to cyclists of all abilities. If you have questions, call Mike Vermont at (800) 257-2226.

To register, fill out the coupon and mail it with your payment to the Alumni Office at Middlebury, which will forward your name to Mike Vermont. Mike Vermont will then send you a confirmation of your registration, along with detailed information about the trip.

2. STRATEGIES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT — Jim Ralph '82, Assistant Professor of History, and Leroy Nashitt '82, Special Assistant to the President

"The decade spanning the Brown decision of 1954 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965," Julius Bond has written, "was more social change, more court decisions, and more legislation in the area of civil rights than any decade in our nation's history." This course explores the subjects behind that success—specifically, the various strategies espoused by civil rights leaders—and examines the subsequent difficulties that civil rights leaders encountered after the triumph at Selma. This course will center on lectures and discussions, and will also draw on videos, slides and tapes to present important scenes of the black freedom struggle.

Jim Ralph graduated from Middlebury College in 1982 and pursued his graduate training in history at Harvard University. He joined the faculty in 1985 as an assistant professor of history. He is the author of *Northern Protest: Martin Luther King, Jr., Chicago, and the Civil Rights Movement* (Harvard University Press, 1993).

Leroy Nashitt is a 1982 graduate of Middlebury and a 1986 graduate of Harvard University Law School. His post-legal experience includes a judicial clerkship and a litigation practice focusing on education. He has also been a part-time instructor at Harvard. He returned to Middlebury in 1992 as special assistant to the president. He taught a 1994 "Winner-Takes-All" course on "The 14th Amendment and Racial Equality."

3. EINSTEIN'S RELATIVITY: THE SIMPLE VERSION — Richard Wolfson, Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Professor of Physics

Surely you've heard to talk of a difficult subject like "Einstein's Relativity" as "understandable." And surely one of the most difficult and inaccessible subjects must be Einstein's own theory of relativity, right?

Wrong! Actually, Einstein's relativity is simplicity itself. In a nutshell, it says that your point of view doesn't matter—i.e., everyone should agree on the basic laws that govern the universe. What's surprising and difficult—even

to Einstein—are the implications of that simple statement for our understanding of fundamental concepts like space and time. In fact, relativity builds a "bridge" between space and time even as, historically, it "bridges" classical ideas of the 19th century with modern physics of the 20th.

This course will introduce Einstein's relativity to curious minds who need neither Einstein's intellect nor previous knowledge of physics. Join us for an exploration of one of the seminal ideas of this century.

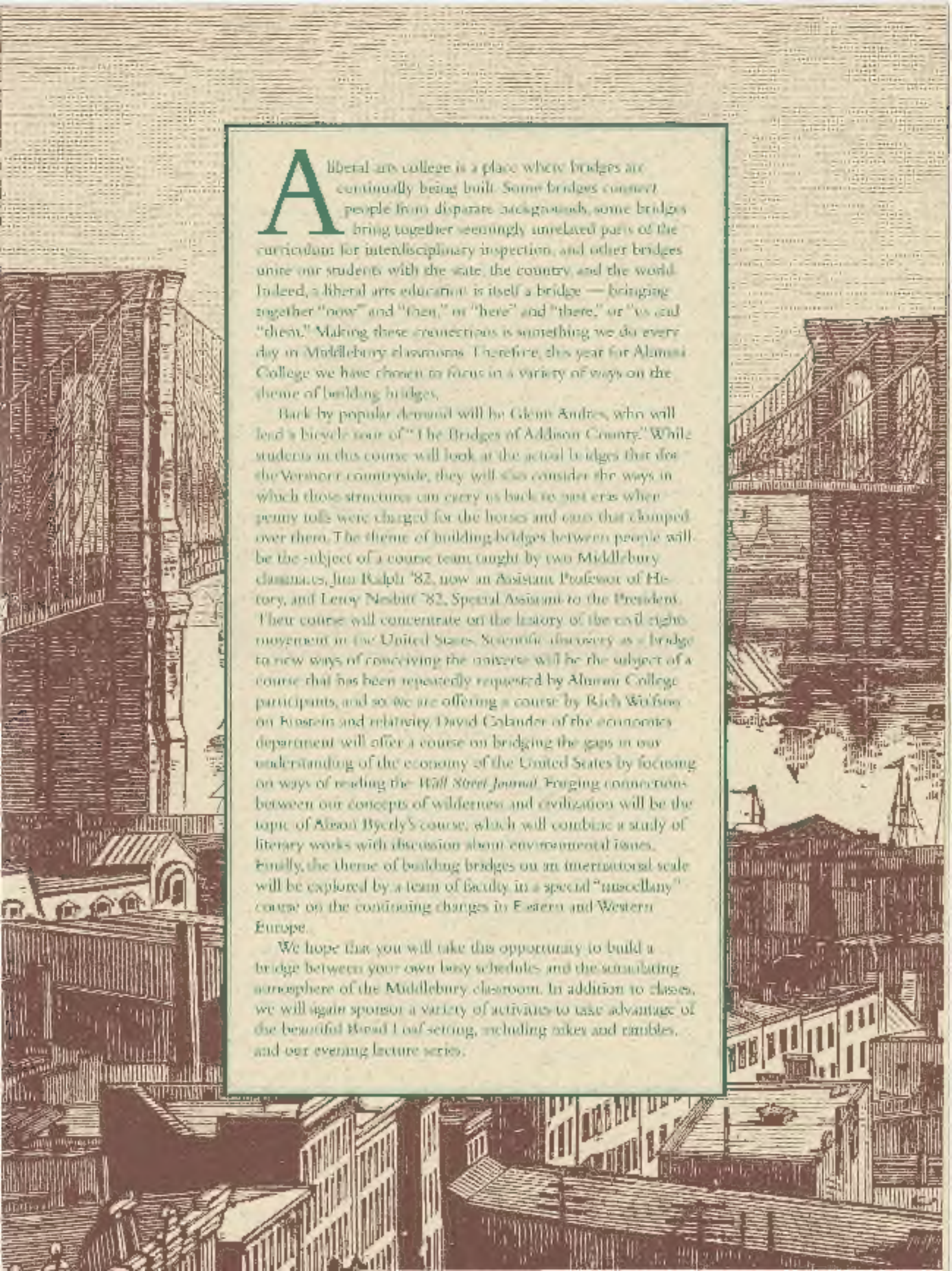
Rich Wolfson, professor of physics and Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts, has taught physics at Middlebury since 1976. His course, Physics 101, has inspired hundreds of nonscience students to Einstein's relativity. His previous Alumni College offerings range from "astrophysics to solar energy" to "global warming to cosmology." Wolfson is the author of numerous articles of scientific literature, has written for *Scientific American*, and is the author of two books: *Physics for Scientists and Engineers*, and *Nuclear Chemistry: A Citizen's Guide to Nuclear Technology*.

4. THE BRIDGE TO WALL STREET: READING THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (FOR THOSE WHO SKIPPED ECONOMICS IN COLLEGE) — David Colander, C.A. Johnson

Distinguished Professor of Economics, the *Wall Street Journal* is one of the most influential newspapers around; it's a journal that many people who are not in business want to like to know more about. This course will introduce you to the journal and to the economy it follows. The course will be easy going; we'll look at two movies—*Barbarians at the Gate* and *Wall Street*. We'll also go through the *Wall Street Journal* for one week at the course, and discuss the role of business in our society.

In the course you'll get a bit of history of the *Wall Street Journal*, an introduction to the funny tables that are found in it, a description of what has bedeviled the advertisement to it, and an explanation of why it is all so interesting. So if your education skirted economics, our course can help you bridge that gap.

David Colander, C.A. Johnson, Distinguished Professor of Economics, is the author of 24 books, including *Economics*, one of the top textbooks on economic principles, *Why Aren't Economists as Important as Carnegies?*, a slightly humorous (for an economist) look at the economics profession, and *History of Economic Thought* (with Harry Eckstein), a book described in the *Boston Globe* as "the single best thing in books which describes how we got from Adam Smith in the current situation." He is currently vice president of both the Eastern Economic Association and the History of Economic Thought Society and is on the editorial of



A liberal arts college is a place where bridges are continually being built. Some bridges connect people from disparate backgrounds, some bridges bring together seemingly unrelated parts of the curriculum for interdisciplinary inspection, and other bridges unite our students with the state, the country, and the world. Indeed, a liberal arts education is itself a bridge — bringing together “now” and “then,” or “here” and “there,” or “us” and “them.” Making these connections is something we do every day in Middlebury classrooms. Therefore, this year for Alumni College we have chosen to focus in a variety of ways on the theme of building bridges.

Back by popular demand will be Glenn Andrus, who will lead a bicycle tour of “The Bridges of Addison County.” While students in this course will look at the actual bridges that dot the Vermont countryside, they will also consider the ways in which those structures can carry us back to past eras when penny tolls were charged for the horses and carts that clomped over them. The theme of building bridges between people will be the subject of a course team taught by two Middlebury classmates, Jim Ralph ’82, now an Assistant Professor of History, and Leroy Nesbitt ’82, Special Assistant to the President. Their course will concentrate on the history of the civil rights movement in the United States. Scientific discovery as a bridge to new ways of conceiving the universe will be the subject of a course that has been repeatedly requested by Alumni College participants, and so we are offering a course by Rich Wolfson on Einstein and relativity. David Calander of the economics department will offer a course on bridging the gaps in our understanding of the economy of the United States by focusing on ways of reading the *Wall Street Journal*. Forging connections between our concepts of wilderness and civilization will be the topic of Aaron Byerly’s course, which will combine a study of literary works with discussion about environmental issues. Finally, the theme of building bridges on an international scale will be explored by a team of faculty in a special “miscellany” course on the continuing changes in Eastern and Western Europe.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to build a bridge between your own busy schedules and the stimulating atmosphere of the Middlebury classroom. In addition to classes, we will again sponsor a variety of activities to take advantage of the beautiful Bread Loaf setting, including hikes and rumbles, and our evening lecture series.

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